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ABSTRACT

More than 100 microcomputer periodicals (magazines, newsletters, and journals) are reviewed in this annotated bibliography. Information provided includes publishing frequency, price (for a 1-year subscription in 1982), address, general content, and audiences, as well as subjective comments. Periodicals listed include those related to specific computer brands and applications, and include those with both general and technical emphases. Computer uses in business, industry, homes, and educational institutions are addressed, and audiences range from the novice to the advanced programmer. Listings include publications from the United States and several foreign countries. Twice yearly updates of this bibliography are planned. In some cases, comments are based on reports or advertisements in the principal magazines. (LMM)

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AN ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY OF MICROCOMPUTER PERIODICALS

by

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Mackenzie, B.C. V0J 2C0

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Michael Arsulich

Ron Adams

INTRODUCTION

Microcomputer periodicals have followed the pattern set by the microcomputer industry: new magazines and newsletters and journals have been appearing at the rate of two or three a month. A few have failed or have been merged with more successful publications, but most have grown rapidly in size, quality, and circulation. More than 100 are reviewed in this bibliography, but another 50 probably escaped my search.

The proliferation of magazines has been fueled by a massive infusion of advertising revenue from the hundreds of companies that are riding the crest of the microelectronics tidal wave. The intense competition in the youthful microcomputer industry may eventually wane, eliminating the weaker periodicals. For the moment, however, readers must choose from a confusing array of overlapping magazines, journals, and newsletters. It is hoped that this bibliography will make that choice a little easier.

Readers will discover that the bibliography contains an extraordinary number of magazines and newsletters devoted to Apple microcomputers. There are two reasons for this. First, we use Apples in our college centre and therefore collect Apple-based periodicals with religious zeal. Second, there are more magazines and newsletters being published for the Apple than for all the other microcomputers combined.

The prices quoted are for one-year subscriptions taken out in the summer of 1982. Except where noted, all prices are in U.S. dollars. The rates may be higher by the time you read this. Newsletters tend to be shortlived and some of those listed may have ceased publication. You should make sure they still exist before sending any money.

Although I subscribe to many of microcomputer magazines and newsletters, I did not have the resources to purchase and evaluate all of the periodicals presented here. In many instances my comments were based on reports or advertisements that appeared in the principal magazines. The source is cited. If you publish a magazine or newsletter that gets superficial treatment or is not included, send me a complimentary subscription and I will add your publication to future versions of the bibliography. I will also be pleased to include reviews written by those who are more familiar with specific periodicals.

We are planning to issue an updated version of the bibliography twice a year. If you would like a copy, please send \$10 to cover the photocopying and mailing costs. We will include an index to articles in the major periodicals, as well as the syllabus of a very successful course in computer literacy that we have developed for teachers.

You should also send a small donation to the individuals or non profit organizations that proffer free newsletters. In most cases the subscriptions are free because circulation is low. If thousands of microcomputer enthusiasts request copies, the dedicated people who produce these newsletters in their spare time won't be able to cover the added costs.

This Bibliography was prepared on an Apple II with the powerful new Screenwriter program. The careful reader may discover that the text contains a number of "New Zeadicals." New Zeadicals are unusual combinations of words and letters that Screenwriter mischievously inserts in the manuscripts of those who don't read the instruction manual.

Screenwriter transforms the Apple into a word processor with all the capabilities of the \$10,000 machines. In fact, we use it to teach word processing to business students at a fraction of the cost of courses that use dedicated word processing equipment. The course is designed for senior high school and junior college students, but can readily be used in a business training environment. For further information, call me at (604) 997-4333.

AN ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY OF MICROCOMPUTER PUBLICATIONS

by

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ADCIS NEWSLETTER

Computer Center
Western Washington University
Bellingham, WA
U.S.A. 98255

U.S.A. \$40
Canada \$40
(membership)

This newsletter is published every two months by the Association for the Development of Computer-Based Instructional Systems, one of the oldest and best-organized groups of computer-using educators. It has special-interest groups for those developing software for health education, home economics, mathematics, music, the PLATO system, elementary and secondary schools, computer-based training, and the handicapped.

ADCIS annually hosts one of the most important computers-in-education conferences in North America. Those who attended the 1982 conference in Vancouver, British Columbia, not only heard papers and reports on the research being done at the leading edge of the field, but also discovered almost every good restaurant and night club in the city. Teachers who wish to participate in ADCIS should join the EL/SEC/JC, a special-interest group devoted to the use of microcomputers in elementary, high school, and college classrooms. Membership in ADCIS includes a subscription to the quarterly Journal of Computer-Based Instruction (see later review), which furnishes some of the most turgid articles in the field.

APPLE ASSEMBLY LINE

S-C Software
Box 280300
Dallas, TX
U.S.A. 75228

U.S.A. \$12
Canada \$12

A monthly newsletter featuring beginners' tutorials, utility programs, and programming techniques in Apple assembly language.

APPLE EDUCATION NEWS

Box 20485
San Jose, CA
U.S.A. 95106

Free

This newsletter, published occasionally by the Apple Corporation, is a useful source of information on the burgeoning Apple-based CAI programs being developed in American universities, colleges, and schools. It also contains the inevitable glowing performance accounts of the company's educational software, as well as of the software being developed for the Apple by other companies. The newsletter is evidently intended for distribution in computer stores because it contains no subscription information.

APPLE EDUCATORS' NEWSLETTER
 9525 Lucerne Street
 Ventura, CA
 U.S.A. 93004

U.S.A. \$15
 Canada \$25

This newsletter is published every two months by the Apple for the Teacher Group, a California-based organization of elementary and high school teachers dedicated to sharing and developing educational software reviews and information on CAI projects that don't get coverage in the glossy magazines. Subscribers can obtain educational software from the Apple for the Teacher Group for 20 per cent less than advertised prices.

APPLE MAGAZINE
 10260 Bandle Drive
 Cupertino, CA
 U.S.A. 95014

U.S.A. \$3
 an issue
 Canada \$3

This is the Apple Corporation's quarterly catalogue disguised as a magazine. It contains several short but lavishly illustrated articles lauding the Apple's versatility as a personal and small-business computer, and provides an up-to-date listing of all hardware and software marketed by the company. It's available at Apple dealers and is often given free to potential customers.

APPLEGRAM
 Apples B.C. Computer Society
 316-8055 Anderson Road
 Richmond, B.C.
 CANADA V6Y 1S2

Canada \$15
 (membership)

The quarterly newsletter of the Apples B.C. Computer Society, which boasts several of the province's top microcomputer programmers. Applegram contains software reviews, program listings, short articles on technical topics, buy-and-sell advertisements, club notices, and a list of programs that members have contributed to a software library that can be bought for \$10 a disk.

APPLE ORCHARD
 910A George Street
 Santa Clara, CA
 U.S.A. 95050

U.S.A. \$15
 Canada \$22.50

The bi-monthly magazine of the international Apple Core, a loosely structured umbrella organization of 200 Apple-users' groups around the world. It contains useful utility programs, programming tips, short articles on computer literacy, a lengthy report on new products for the Apple, and an occasional interview--some of which are reprinted from member groups' newsletters. For example, the spring 1981 issue contains an interview with Apple founder Steve Wozniak, and a tutorial on text-formatting far superior to the explanation in the Apple manuals. The optional \$100 IAC club membership includes a subscription to Apple Orchard, several diskettes of contributed software, and a newsletter of technical notes on the Apple.

BOUNTY

U.S.A. \$6

17710 De Witt Avenue
Morgan Hill, CA
U.S.A. 95037

A quarterly newsletter for special education teachers that includes a "computer corner" devoted to reviews of microcomputer software for the learning disabled.

BRIGHT-SIDE OUTLOOK

Free

Box 7460
Burbank, CA
U.S.A. 91510

Bright-Side is a mail-order organization that furnishes microcomputer software at discount prices. Our order was not only filled promptly but also returned with four free diskettes. Bright-Side provides a free diskette with every \$50 worth of software you purchase from them. The Bright-Side Outlook is a brief catalogue of their products. I received the Apple edition. Presumably there are editions for other microcomputers.

BUSS

U.S.A. \$26

716 E Street S.E.
Washington, D.C.
U.S.A. 20003

A newsletter for owners of Heath and Zenith microcomputers. It is published every three weeks, but is not affiliated with either company.

BYTE

U.S.A. \$19

Canada \$21

Box 590
Martinsville, N.J.
U.S.A. 08836

Byte is McGraw Hill's monthly attempt to imitate the worst features of Scientific American and the Sears catalogue. The articles not only are highly technical and frequently devoted to arcane subjects that will bewilder the small-systems user, but also are buried in a blizzard of advertising that occasionally pushes this unexceptional magazine to 500 pages. Each issue has a theme (local networking and data base management systems have been featured in recent months) and a do-it-yourself project by electronics wizard Steve Ciarcia. Indeed, Byte may well be the only microcomputer periodical that will appeal to computer professionals and hobbyists who have their basements crammed with gadgetry.

None the less, it's the most prestigious microcomputer journal, and its advertisements will keep you abreast of the latest developments and all the new hardware in the field. I buy it for three reasons: Bytelines, which is Sol Libes's fascinating analysis of news and rumors in the microcomputing industry; the Education Forum, which reports CAI projects at various American universities and colleges; and Robert Tinney's remarkable covers, which will surely become 20th century classics.

CECC NEWSLETTER

Free

c/o Herb Garrett
Long Beach City College
4901 East Carson Street
Long Beach, CA
U.S.A. 90808

The quarterly newsletter of the California Educational Computing Consortium, an association of college and university instructors that hosts the annual Western Educational Computing Conference. The first two issues of the newsletter are almost entirely devoted to educational conference notices.

CRC Newsletter

U.S.A. \$10

10057 Commerce Avenue
Tujunga, CA
U.S.A. 91042

The ads claim that this "exclusive newsletter for IBM personal computer enthusiasts" will feature reviews, new product announcements, technical articles, reports on problems, a users' forum, and classified ads. CRC publishing will send you a sample copy for \$1 U.S.

Call-A.P.P.L.E.

U.S.A. \$40

304 Main Avenue South
Suite 300
Renton, WA
U.S.A. 98055

Canada \$40

(membership)

Subsequent years \$15

Published nine times a year, Call-A.P.P.L.E. is the magazine of the oldest and most sophisticated of the Apple-users' groups--the Apple Puget Sound Program Library Exchange. It is an excellent source of programming tips, utility-program listings, software reviews, and product reports. Although it is geared to experienced users, beginners and experts alike may call a "hot line" for advice from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. seven days a week. The hot line has saved me many hours of frustration. I strongly recommend membership in Call-A.P.P.L.E. for serious Apple users.

CHROMASETTE MAGAZINE

U.S.A. \$45

Box 1087
Santa Barbara, CA
U.S.A. 93102

Chromasette is a monthly magazine for the TRS-80 Color computer that is sent to subscribers on a 30-minute cassette tape. Each tape contains several ready-to-load games programs together with several pages of documentation. I have not seen it and would appreciate subscribers' evaluations.

CLASSROOM COMPUTER NEWS

Box 266
Cambridge, MA
U.S.A. 02139

U.S.A. \$16
Canada \$21

Classroom Computer News is probably the best source of educational software reviews. The first issue I received contained the following articles: "Computer literacy--What Should Schools Be Doing About It?"; "A School Administrator Looks at Visicalc"; "Special Tools for Special Needs"; "Programming 1--The Starting Gate"; "Word Processors for Teachers"; "microcomputers in the School Library's Future"; and "How Does the Computer Remember All That Stuff?" Recent issues focused on the use of microcomputers in a variety of classroom settings, including pre-service and in-service courses. Particularly useful are its critical reviews of educational software and its articles on computer-related classroom activities. Highly recommended for elementary and high school teachers.

CLOAD

Box 1148
Santa Barbara, CA
U.S.A. 93102

U.S.A. \$42

A subscription to CLOAD consists of a 30-minute cassette tape containing seven or eight programs for the TRS-80 model I or III. It is published monthly. I've never seen it and would appreciate users' opinions.

CLOSING THE GAP

Route 2, Box 39
Henderson, MN
U.S.A. 56044

U.S.A. \$15

A periodical devoted to the use of microcomputers in special education. It is published every two months and features educational software reviews and articles on computer applications for the physically and mentally handicapped.

COLLEGIATE MICROCOMPUTER

Rose Hulman Institute of Technology
Terre Haute, IN
U.S.A. 47803

U.S.A. \$20
Canada \$28

Collegiate Microcomputer is a quarterly journal scheduled to appear in February 1983. The advertisements claim that it will be a forum for the exchange of ideas on the role of microcomputers in all areas of college and university life. The Rose-Hulman Institute is soliciting papers on "the uses of hardware and software, descriptions of topics, units and courses using microcomputers, results of research and using microcomputers, analyses of experiments in microcomputer consulting and workshops, microcomputer use in office work and material preparation, and reviews of software, hardware, peripherals, products, and literature." Will the publishers hire a professional editor to overhaul the convoluted prose that is mistaken for scholarship in our colleges and universities; or will Collegiate Microcomputer become yet another obscure academic journal that no one reads? Time will tell.

COMMODORE

Commodore Business Magazines
681 Moore Road
King of Prussia, PA
U.S.A.

U.S.A. \$15
Canada \$25

Commodore's magazine for owners of PET, VC-20, and CBM machines. It is published six times a year. I haven't seen it and welcome subscribers' comments.

COMPUKIDS

Box 874
Sedalia, MO
U.S.A. 65301

U.S.A. \$12

A monthly newsletter for children that contains stories, games, and contests that will appeal to junior microcomputer enthusiasts.

COMPUTE!

515 Abbott Drive
Broomall, PA
U.S.A. 19008

U.S.A. \$20
Canada \$25

Compute! is one of the few magazines that specialize in coverage of the Atari and the Commodore PET and VIC-20 microcomputers. It also offers regular columns on the social impact of microcomputers, applications for the handicapped, and BASIC programming tips, together with a selection of reviews and printed program listings for these microcomputers. There is more to this magazine than the cartoon cover implies, but editor Robert Lock should spend some time with Prentice-Hall's third edition of Words into Type.

COMPUTRONICS

50 N. Pascack Road
Spring Valley, NY
U.S.A. 10977

U.S.A. \$24
Canada \$36

The principal monthly magazine for owners of the TRS-80 microcomputer. Its many program listings are available on cassette or diskette.

COMPUTER AGE

4 Valentine Place
London, SE 1
GREAT BRITAIN

Britain L7.20

This British monthly was, in my opinion, the leading microcomputer journal in the English language. It was comprehensive, well laid out, and written in brisk, erudite, jargon-free style that ordinary mortals could understand. Topics included the office of the future, computer literacy, computer-assisted instruction, ergonomics, voice synthesis, the use of microcomputers in medicine and special education, bubble memory, and artificial intelligence. The magazine also featured excellent tutorials in programming language like PILOT, FORTH, and APL. Unfortunately, it appears to have gone out of business. The

telephone has been disconnected and my letters have been returned "not here." If you know the whereabouts of Computer Age, please let me know.

COMPUTER BUSINESS NEWS

375 Cochituate Road
Box 875
Framingham, MA
U.S.A. 01701-9986

U.S.A. \$25
Canada \$54

This newspaper is billed as "The Newsweekly for the OEM Community," which means that it is aimed at the data processing professionals in medium-sized businesses. Many of the articles are descriptions of new minicomputer hardware written in fluent acronym: "Micro/PDP-11 runs PDP-11 commercial operating systems such as RSX-11M-Plus, RT-11, CTS-300 and RSTS," writes one reporter, "as well as DSM-11 (DEC standard Mumps) and MicroPower/Pascal. Because it can run resource-sharing RSTS and real-time RSX-11 Plus, the system can handle multitasking environments," Rich noted. This type of verbiage can be selected almost at random from the pages of Computer Business News. Ordinarily it would not be included in a bibliography of microcomputer periodicals. It is clear, however, that microcomputers are beginning to make inroads into the OEM (original equipment manufacturing) circles. For example, the issue of June 28, 1982, contains no less than four major articles on microcomputers: "Xerox Pits 9-Bit Micro Against 16-Bit Offerings"; "Growth Spurs Mainframe User to Look to Micros"; "Micro Makers Using More 8/16-Bit Processors"; and "Study Sees Floppy Sales Leading Media Market." Could Apples be closing on our friends with the real-time RSX-11M-Plus Mumps?

COMPUTER FARMING NEWSLETTER

Box 22642
Memphis, TN
U.S.A. 38122

A monthly newsletter published by Lloyd Dinkins, a microcomputer enthusiast who believes that the agricultural sector will provide one of the biggest and most lucrative markets for software authors.

COMPUTER GAMING WORLD

1919 E. Sycamore #203
Anaheim, CA
U.S.A. 92805

U.S.A. \$11
Canada \$15

Computer Gaming World features game reviews, game industry news, and tips on how to improve your score on popular microcomputer games. It is published every two weeks.

COMPUTER GRAPHICS NEWS

Scherago Associates
1515 Broadway
New York, NY
U.S.A. 10036

Byte reports that this tabloid serves as a news source for the computer-graphics community.

COMPUTERS AND PROGRAMMING

Box 1935
Marion, OH
U.S.A. 43305

U.S.A. \$7.50

Canada \$8.50

The appeal of microcomputers was not lost on the publishers of the former Science and Electronics, who changed the name of their magazine (issued every two months) to Computers and Programming in July 1981. It now carries short articles on microcomputers and their uses, as well as reviews of products and do-it-yourself projects that may interest the electronics hobbyist.

COMPUTERTOWN USA!

Box E
Menlo Park, CA
U.S.A. 94025

Donations

The monthly newsletter of a group of enthusiasts in Menlo Park, California, dedicated to promoting computer literacy. Their projects include microcomputer fairs, programming contests, and public demonstrations, as well as the installation of microcomputers in public libraries. It's a good source of ideas on grass-roots microcomputer uses. For example, the August 1981 issue has an article on raising funds for the purchase of microcomputers.

COMPUTERWORLD

375 Cochituate Road
Box 880
Framingham, MA
U.S.A. 01701

U.S.A. \$65

Computerworld describes itself as the "The Newsweekly for the Computer Community," which is to say the programmers, analysts, specialists, data-processing executives, and computer-centre directors who cope with the big, expensive, and soon-to-be obsolete minicomputer and megacomputer systems. The articles, reports, and reviews are fascinating though obscure, but the classified job-opportunities advertisements are truly spectacular.

COURSEWARE MAGAZINE

Fresno, CA
U.S.A. 93726

U.S.A. \$50

Canada \$58

This high-priced magazine, edited by educator Dan Isaacson, contains "documented education programs for K-12 students designed to meet teachers' needs." Each issue features a cassette tape with at least two CAI programs as well as a teacher's guide and a worksheet. The programs in the first five issues include a spelling drill, a vocabulary drill, an introductory statistics

program, two arithmetic tutorials, a measurement-guessing program, and a game to teach alphabetical order. Isaacson asserts that these programs are short "because school budgets are so tight these days." Infoworld reviewer Ramon Zamora reports that the magazine is a mixture of good intentions, average software, and flawed documentation, but that it has considerable potential. A magazine like this is badly needed, and I would appreciate receiving the opinion of subscribers.

CREATIVE COMPUTING

Box 789-M

Morrison, NJ

U.S.A. 07960

U.S.A. \$25

Canada \$30

If you plan to purchase only one magazine, this should be your choice. Creative Computing has all the types of articles, reviews, program listings, and columns usually appearing in other microcomputer monthlies, as well as a sense of humor: It's sprinkled with cartoons, delightful pen-and-ink drawings, satirical pieces, short stories, puzzles, and even the occasional poem. Moreover, it's not restricted to computer topics. Recent issues had an excellent series on effective writing techniques that any writer can use. But editor-in-chief David Ahl's judgment may be slipping: Creative Computing rejected this critical bibliography with a form letter.

COMPUTERS IN MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE TEACHING

Box 4455

Austin, TX

U.S.A. 78765

U.S.A. \$10

Canada \$15

The quarterly journal of the Association for Computers in Mathematics and Science Teaching, a non-profit association of college and high school mathematics and science teachers interested in the instructional uses of computers. It features short but pithy articles on classroom computer aids, as well as an extensive annotated bibliography of scholarly articles and a brief description of new software and books. It would be a valuable addition to the resources of college and pre-college teachers interested in innovative approaches to science and mathematics curriculums.

CUE NEWSLETTER

Independence High School

1776 Educational Park Drive

San Jose, CA

U.S.A. 95133

U.S.A. \$6

Canada \$8

Published every two months, this is the newsletter of California's computer-using educators, an enthusiastic group of several hundred elementary and high school teachers. CUE maintains an educational software exchange and members can buy several diskettes of modest educational programs for the Apple, PET, and TRS-80 for \$10 a diskette. The newsletter outlines CUE's many activities, and prints short but revealing educational software reviews. It is a model for computer-using educators' groups and is well worth the low membership fee.

DATAMATION

1301 South Grove
Barrington, IL
U.S.A. 60010

U.S.A. \$36
Canada \$45

Datamation contains up-to-date coverage of hardware developments in the \$100,000 range that will make microcomputer enthusiasts drool.

DATAMERICA

312 East 84 Street
New York, NY
U.S.A. 10028

U.S.A. \$10

The monthly newsletter of the DATAmerica Computer Users Group, which embraces owners of Apple, TRS-80, Atari, PET, VIC-20, and Sinclair microcomputers. Byte reports that DATAmerica is "packed with games, reviews, articles, software exchange, and programs." A sample issue is available for \$1.

DESKTOP COMPUTING

Box 997
Farmingham, NY
U.S.A. 11737

U.S.A. \$17
Canada \$19

A monthly magazine for business owners who use small computers, published by Wayne Green, editor of Microcomputing (see my later review). Green states that it will mostly provide "success stories" written in plain English. His extensive knowledge of the microcomputer industry and his grasp of clear, precise English are likely to make Desktop Computer a leader in the field. Let's hope that he gives equal time to the horror stories in the small-business computing arena.

DENTAL COMPUTER NEWSLETTER

1000 North Avenue
Waukegan, IL
U.S.A. 60085

U.S.A. \$15
Canada \$23

A monthly newsletter for dentists and dental office personnel who are interested in small business computers. A subscription includes access to a software exchange and a computer bulletin board.

DITS AND BITS

Box 10101
Dallas, TX
U.S.A.

A newsletter for microcomputer-using ham radio operators.

DR. DOBB'S JOURNAL

Box E
Menlo Park, CA
U.S.A. 04025

U.S.A. \$21
Canada \$40

A monthly magazine of technical articles that will appeal to experienced programmers of microcomputer systems. It is published by the People's Computer Company, a small company that depends on subscriptions and donations to pay the bills.

DYNAMIC BLACKBOARD NEWS

Free

Cambridge Development Laboratory
36 Pleasant Street
Watertown, MA
U.S.A. 02172

A newsletter published by the Cambridge Development Laboratories, a self-styled "for profit, independent organization" that "grew out of the research at Technical Education Research Centers (TERC)." It is designed to promote CDL's products, which include a do-it-yourself microcomputer laboratory kit and some sophisticated graphics software.

ECOO NEWSLETTER

U.S.A. \$20

OISE-MECA
252 Bloor Street West
Toronto, ON
CANADA M5S 1V6

Canada \$10

The lively quarterly newsletter of the Educational Computing Organization of Ontario, a group of OISE-based educators dedicated to promoting computer literacy and computer-assisted instruction in Ontario schools. They've given Ontario a year's lead over other provinces, such as B.C., that are flirting with microcomputers in the schools. Unlike that of B.C., however, the Ontario ministry of education has not had the foresight to select a province-wide system; indeed, it is foolishly promoting the development of a pie-in-the-sky Canadian educational microcomputer.

EDUCATIONAL COMPUTER MAGAZINE

U.S.A. \$12

Box 535
Cupertino, CA
U.S.A. 95015

Canada \$20

Educational Computer is a new magazine for teachers in schools, colleges, and universities. It is published every two months and features articles, reviews, editorials, and letters on educational topics.

EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY

U.S.A. \$49

140 Sylvan Avenue
Englewood Cliffs, NJ
U.S.A. 07632

Canada \$59

A monthly periodical for audio-visual specialists and educators interested in the technological aspects of education. It consists mostly of indifferently edited research papers on arcane subjects written in academic language by professors who must, even at the cost of clear expression, publish or perish. A noticeable exception is Gerald T. Gleason's survey of the use of microcomputers in education (March 1981, pp. 7-18). The editors of Education Technology have recently discovered microcomputers, and are devoting more and more coverage to their educational applications. This no doubt will be a boon to graduate st use of microcomputers in education (March 1981, pp. 7-18). The editors of Education Technology have recently discovered microcomputers, and are devoting more and more coverage to their educational applications. This no doubt will be a boon to graduate students,

and to the many faculty members who judge scholarship by the number of footnotes per manuscript page.

EIGHTY SYSTEMS NEWSLETTER

U.S.A. \$39

Kengore Corporation
3001 Route 27
Franklin Park, NJ
U.S.A. 08823

A weekly newsletter for people who own or retail Tandy Corporation's popular line of TRS-80 microcomputers. The newsletter provides industry news and announcements or new product for the TRS-80 series, as well as a bibliography of TRS-80 articles that appear in other periodicals. Sales personnel will find Eighty Systems Newsletter especially useful.

ELECTRIC APPLE

U.S.A. \$5
an issue

Box 798
Wellington
New Zealand

New Zealand's first national Apple users magazine.

ELECTRONIC LEARNING

U.S.A. \$19

Scholastic Inc.
Box 2001
Englewood Cliffs, NJ
U.S.A. 07632

902 Sylvan Avenue

Electronic Learning is a colorful, easy-to-read magazine published eight times a year for teachers. Articles in recent issues include a fine-part primer on computers, a detailed outline of a course in computer literacy, a guide to purchasing microcomputers, and a tutorial on evaluating educational software. It regularly features articles on the educational potential of new products like the videodisc, a comprehensive directory of software houses, and lists of microcomputer courses offered in the United States. Reviews of educational software are short and often superficial, but teachers will find it a good source of ideas for classroom projects. It does not favor any brand of microcomputer. Every elementary and high school staff room should have a subscription.

EVALUATIONS

Donations

PEMC
7351 Elmbridge Way
Richmond, B.C.
Canada V6X 1

The use of microcomputers in British Columbia schools lags behind that of other Canadian provinces, but there are bright spots. The periodical Evaluations is one of them. It is collection of educational software reviews compiled by microcomputer specialists Gayle Long and Ken Van Appledorn. Each review consists of a short description of the program together with an assessment of its content, its instructional

effectiveness, its technical quality, and the grade level it is best suited for. The reviewers are hard to please: Only 7 of the 27 programs reviewed in the first issue were recommended for purchase by schools. Furthermore, the reviewers have provided their telephone numbers in the event you require more information. Reviews of professional packages by Milliken, Conduit, and SRA sit next to programs written by gifted amateurs. In short, Evaluations is a very useful resource for teachers. Editors Long and Van Appledorn hope to publish it once a month. It is provided free by the Provincial Educational Media Centre, but send a \$10 donation to supplement the project's meagre government grant.

FARM COMPUTER NEWS

U.S.A. \$40

Successful Farming Magazine
1716 Locust Street
Des Moines, IA
U.S.A. 50336

This newsletter, published monthly by Successful Farming Magazine, features synopses of new farm microcomputer programs. Each issue contains a computer trade market corner and a calendar of computer workshops designed to familiarize the farmer with computers and programmable calculators. The calculation of animal weight ratios and crop-planting populations have been covered recently.

FIG NEWSLETTER

U.S.A. \$15

Box 1105
San Carlos, CA
U.S.A. 94070

Canada \$27

The monthly newsletter of the FORTH Interest Group. Membership in the group is a must for microcomputers owners who are bold enough to try FORTH, a powerful, structured language famous for its use of "Reverse Polish Notation." Several software versions of FORTH are available for the Apple. They are reviewed in the September 1981 issue of Peelings II, which gives the highest rating to Softape's FORTH II.

GENEALOGICAL COMPUTING

U.S.A. \$12

Data Transfer Associates
5102 Pomeroy Drive
Fairfax, VA
U.S.A. 22032

Canada \$15

Genealogists can now buy several computer programs to help build the family tree, as well as this newsletter devoted to the use of microcomputers in this popular avocation. I have not seen a copy, but Infoworld reports that the first issue of Genealogical Computing includes news, a directory of program reviews, ideas for novices, and genealogical program listings and subroutines.

HARDCORE COMPUTING

Department 333
14404 East "D" Street
Tacoma, WA
U.S.A. 98445

U.S.A. \$20
Canada \$28

The launching of Hardcore Computing in the fall of 1981 demonstrated that microcomputer magazines are beginning to imitate one of the principles of evolution: if an environmental niche opens, a species will evolve to fill it. The niche in this case is the appearance of the controversial "nibble-copy" programs like Back-It-Up and Locksmith that copy most legally protected diskettes. Enterprising investors have thus launched a magazine that claims to show Apple users how to "back up any diskette, do and undo copy protection, encrypt confidential data files, and customize yourp and Locksmith that copy most legally protected diskettes. Enterprising investors have thus launched a magazine that claims to show Apple users how to "back up any diskette, do and undo copy protection, encrypt confidential data files, and customize your commercial programs." It also claims to have program listings on games and utilities, as well as programming tips, software reviews, and information on writers' markets and Apple's disk operating system. The advertisements do not mention how often it will appear. Caveat emptor.

HIGH TECHNOLOGY

Box 2808
Boulder, CO
U.S.A. 80321

U.S.A. \$18
Canada \$24

Published six times a year, High Technology features articles on a variety of technological topics, including robotics, satellite television, holography, fibre optics, and microcomputers. Editor Bernard Goldhirsh asserts that the magazine is aimed at corporate managers and engineering professionals, but most articles are attractively illustrated and so easy to read that they would be valuable supplement to a grade 11 or grade 12 science curriculum. Moreover, the articles and advertising are not mixed on the same page, which facilitates photocopying.

ILLINOIS SERIES ON THE EDUCATIONAL APPLICATION OF COMPUTERS

College of Education
University of Illinois
Urbana, IL
U.S.A. 61801

U.S.A. .50
per paper

A series of academic papers "prepared as resources for the pre-service training of teachers under the general theme of teaching with or about computers." I'm not well enough informed in the teacher-training field to evaluate this comprehensive series. Some of the material may be dated, but probably it will be useful to education faculty who are interested in adding computer-assisted instructional technology to their curriculums.

INFOAGE

211 Consumers Road
Suite 302
Willowdale, ON
CANADA M2J 4G8

U.S.A. \$20
Canada \$15

Infoage is Canada's first microcomputer magazine, and it covers the field from a fresh and rather irreverent perspective. Editor David Humphreys' reaction to the Science Council of Canada's recommendation that computer literacy be promoted by placing Telidon Terminals in public libraries reflects the frustration that many of us feel when dealing with decision-making officials who know nothing about microcomputers.

"The Science Council's recommendations," he writes, "attenuate the confused tangle of wool gathering that masquerades as policy and action in Ottawa. For microcomputer users, their report may well pass as a lightless ship on a dark night. Staggering is the idea that a videotex terminal with a small keypad leads to computer literacy. None of the hundreds of students I have taught about computers would receive the slightest benefit from a system whose most attractive feature is that you don't have to know anything about a computer to use it....We don't need to be at the end of a government-controlled cable. We'd rather play with our own micros and equate computer literacy with that."

Who could resist a subscription to a magazine that is prepared to take on the burgeoning videotex industry? Unfortunately, the articles on computer languages that follow this bold editorial stand are far too technical for most readers. Humphreys should solicit easy-to-read articles from local users' groups and teachers who belong to the Educational Computer Organization of Ontario. In any event, every Canadian owner of a microcomputer should invest \$15 in a subscription to Infoage as a matter of national pride.

INFOWORLD

Circulation Department
375 Cochituate Road
Framingham, MA
U.S.A. 01701

U.S.A. \$25
Canada \$52

A weekly newspaper aimed at the personal and business microcomputer user that will keep you informed on the latest developments in the industry. The coverage is comprehensive and the articles are free of jargon. Particularly valuable are its editorials and its candid software reviews, many of which are for the Apple. Each issue contains an extensive collection of classified ads and, until recently, a delightful satire by "Minnie Floppy." Also revealing are its many letters to the editor, some of which are written by irate people who have found that some of the much heralded microcomputer products leave a great deal to be desired. This is the periodical that I look forward to receiving the most.

INTERFACE AGE
Box 1234
Cerritos, CA
U.S.A. 90701

U.S.A. \$18
Canada \$24

A monthly magazine that features one microcomputer system each month, together with several well-written overviews of the use of microcomputers in various business environments, articles on the microcomputer industry, an extensive but uncritical report on new products, and several reviews on business software. This informative magazine is aimed at the small business owner who uses a microcomputer. Infoworld's "Maxie Floppy" jokes that Interface Age "hasn't determined whether it wants to be a catalog, a reprint of manufacturers' promotional material, or a pretty good source of programs for CP/M-based computers." (Infoworld April 5, 1982, 68.)

INTERACTIVE COMPUTING
Box 9003
Boulder, CO
U.S.A. 80301

U.S.A. \$65
Canada \$65

The brief but pithy journal of the Association of Computer Users, a non-profit consumer-oriented corporation dedicated to unbiased reviews of small-computer systems. Recent articles include "Ten Pitfalls to Avoid in Buying a Small Computer System," "Are Large Computers Obsolete?" and "An Introduction to the office of the Future." It is aimed at the small-business-system user and membership includes a subscription to ACU's monthly bulletin, two comprehensive benchmark reports on the business systems of your choice, and a subscription to one or more sectional newsletters. Editor Hillel Segal does not accept advertising, which explains the steep membership fee. It is published six times a year and consultants and computer sales personnel will find it a good investment.

ITMA NEWSLETTER
College of St. Mark and St. John
Derriford Road
Plymouth, PL6 8BH
GREAT BRITAIN

Free, but send
a donation for
postage

The quarterly newsletter of the British Investigations on Teaching with Microcomputers as an Aid, a rapidly growing group of British teachers dedicated to developing, evaluating, and promoting computer-assisted instructional (CAI) materials. It features valuable material on CAI techniques, articles written by teachers, and educational program listings in 380Z BASIC. The newsletter furnishes proof of Britain's energetic promotion of the educational applications of microcomputers.

Computer Center
Western Washington University
Bellingham, WA
U.S.A. 98225

The JCBI is the academic quarterly of Western Washington's Association for the Development of Computer-Based Instructional Systems. The producers assert that it publishes "original investigations and theoretical papers dealing with direct applications of computing to the problems of learning and instruction, design of curriculum, authoring languages and systems, and comparative curriculum structures for computer-based instruction."

Contributors are urged to submit "empirical studies that use experimental procedures which will maximize the potential generalizability of outcomes." Most articles are therefore padded with academic jargon and statistical tables that make them incomprehensible to the ordinary reader. However, the JCBI publishes ERIC abstracts--short descriptions of the unpublished papers, reports, and theses that are being written on computer applications in education.

JOURNAL OF COMPUTING IN SCIENCE TEACHING

U.S.A. \$7

Box 4825
Austin, TX
U.S.A. 78765

Published quarterly by the Association for Computers in Science Teaching, this journal features research reports, tutorials, and software reviews pertinent to elementary and high school teaching.

JOURNAL OF COURSEWARE REVIEW

U.S.A. \$6.95

Box 28246
San Jose, CA
U.S.A. 95159

an issue
Canada \$6.95

A collection of professional reviews of educational software for the Apple. It is published quarterly by the Foundation for the Advancement of Computer-Aided Instruction (formerly the Apple Education Foundation), a non-profit organization that furnishes hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of microcomputer equipment each year to people who propose innovative CAI projects. Each issue costs \$6.95, which is rather expensive but well worth it if it saves you from purchasing even one piece of poor software.

LOGOPHILE

Free

c/o Dr. William Higginson
Faculty of Education
Queen's University
Kingston, ON
CANADA K7L 3N6

An informal newsletter on the children's computer language LOGO. It is published periodically by the LOGO special-interest group of the Educational Computing Organization of Ontario. Send a stamped, self-addressed 8 1/2 x 11 envelope for a free sample copy.

MAGNETIC FANTASIES

1626 N. Wilcox, No. 403
Hollywood, CA
U.S.A. 90028

I haven't read Magnetic Fantasies, but Interface Age reports that it is a newsletter for fantasy-and-adventure-game addicts, which means that it has a potential circulation of millions.

MICRO

Box 6502
Chelmsford, MA
U.S.A. 01824

U.S.A. \$24
Canada \$27

A monthly for experienced APPLE, PET, OSI, TRS-80 Color, and KYM/SYN/AIM programmers. Each issue contains one or more useful utility programs for the Apple, but most of the content is devoted to the other microcomputers. However, Micro does have two features that make it worth the subscription price: a comprehensive directory of new software and a monthly bibliography of articles on the 6502 and 6809 microprocessors. Many of these articles appear in obscure magazines and newsletters that I cannot locate: Abacus II, Rubber Apple Newsletter, The C.I.D.E.R. Press, Saturn Softnews, The G.R.A.P.E. Vine, Spreadsheet, and L.A.U.G.H.S. If the publishers of these periodicals send me a sample copy, I'll include them in the next edition of this bibliography.

MICRO

Box 6210
Auckland
New Zealand

The monthly newsletter of the New Zealand Microcomputer Club. Byte reports that Micro "overflows with news of club activities, classified advertisements, software library happenings, and notes from user groups." Club members would like to exchange newsletters with other users' groups.

MICROCOMPUTING

Box 977
Farmingdale, NY
U.S.A. 11737

U.S.A. \$25
Canada \$27

Microcomputing is a comprehensive, carefully edited monthly noted for excellent articles on technical topics and for regular features on the microcomputer industry, education, business, new products, and book reviews. Serious microcomputer users may prefer it to Creative Computing. Editor Wayne Green's perceptive monthly analysis of the industry is worth the subscription price. Highly recommended.

MICRO CO-OP NEWSLETTER

Box 714
St. Charles, IL
U.S.A. 60185

A collection of Atari software reviews published every two months by Micro Co-op, an organization that offers software at below-retail prices.

MICRO MOONLIGHTER NEWSLETTER

2115-DD Bernard Avenue
Nashville, TN
U.S.A. 37212

U.S.A. \$25
Canada \$29

Publisher J. Norman Goode claims that his monthly newsletter is the only publication devoted exclusively to building and maintaining a home-based business using your microcomputer.

MICRO SCOPE

JEM Research
Discovery Park
The University of Victoria
Box 1700
Victoria, B.C.
CANADA V8W 2Y2

U.S.A. \$10
Canada \$10

The occasional newsletter of the Joint Educational Management Research project--the consultants responsible for the B.C. Ministry of Education's desperately underfunded microcomputer pilot project--will keep you abreast of the disorganized but rapidly growing use of computer-assisted instructional materials in B.C.'s elementary and secondary schools.

MICROSIFT NEWS

300 S.W. Sixth Avenue
Portland, OR
U.S.A. 97204

Free

An occasional newsletter featuring short but informative educational software reviews. It is published by the Northwest Regional Educational Laboratory, a non-profit educational research organization in Portland, Oregon. The reviews contain an educational summary prepared by at least two teachers who have used the program in their classrooms. The only problem with Microsift News is that it does not appear often enough.

MICROSYSTEMS

39 East Hanover Avenue
Morris Plains, NJ
U.S.A. 07950

U.S.A. \$10
Canada \$15

A magazine of technical articles for advanced programmers using microcomputers equipped with the CP/M operating system and the S-100 hardware bus.

MINI-MICRO SYSTEMS

U.S.A. \$65

Box 5051
Denver, CO
U.S.A. 80217

A glossy monthly specializing in microcomputer hardware. It is directed to engineers, consultants, systems specialists, and data-communications management personnel. The articles are burdened with technical jargon. Purchase an occasional copy if you're interested in the dazzling array of hardware available to big-business users; otherwise, this expensive journal can be safely ignored unless you are a highly paid specialist entitled to a free subscription.

NEWS 80s

U.S.A. \$10

Box 1329
Redondo Beach, CA
U.S.A. 90278

Personal Computing reports that News 80s is a quarterly newsletter for users of the Hewlett Packard HP-83 and HP-85 microcomputers. It features hardware and software reviews, feature articles, a beginners' column, and programming tips. A sample issue is available for \$2.

NIBBLE

U.S.A. \$17.50

Box 325
Lincoln, MA
U.S.A. 01733

Canada \$18

An excellent magazine for advanced Apple users. Each of the eight yearly issues features at least two major program listings for home, small-business, or entertainment use that can be typed into the Apple. It also contains a selection of program tips, hardware construction projects, and product reviews. The major listings can be obtained on diskettes for \$15 or less. Those who enjoy programming swear by Nibble, and no serious Apple owner should be without a subscription. Highly recommended.

OPTICAL MEMORY NEWSLETTER

Box 14817
San Francisco, CA
U.S.A. 94114

An occasionally published newsletter devoted to optical-memory technology. The first issue reports that Burroughs is expected to shortly announce a two-billion byte optical disk system with a very fast access time.

PC

U.S.A. \$12

1239-21st Avenue
San Francisco, CA
U.S.A. 94122

PC is a new monthly for owners of the IBM PC microcomputer. It is published by Software Communications Inc., which, the ads say, is not affiliated in any way with IBM. PC features programming tips, product news, and extensive reviews of the software, hardware, and supplies that can be used with the IBM personal computer.

PEELINGS II

U.S.A. \$21

2260 Oleander Street
Las Cruces, NM
U.S.A. 88004

Canada \$28.50

A collection of comprehensive reviews of Apple II software. Reviewers Edward Burlbaw, Howard de St. Germain, John Martellaro, Helena Martellaro, Sandy Abernathy, Tom Little, John Goodwin, Michael Weasner, and John Mitchener don't mince words: If the program is a lemon, they will tell you. What's more, they provide information on the capabilities of software that other reviewers miss. Each program is given a letter grade for comparison, and advertising is accepted only from companies who are making quality software. I have purchased more than a dozen software packages as a direct result of Peelings II reviews. It is undoubtedly one of the most useful references for the Apple owner. The review of word-processing software in the July 1982 issue is itself worth a two-year subscription. Peelings II is published nine times a year.

PERSONAL COMPUTING

U.S.A. \$18

Circulation Department
1050 Commonwealth Avenue
Boston, MA
U.S.A. 02215

Canada \$26

A well-designed, easy-to-read monthly with articles on a wide variety of topics as well as perceptive essays on the microcomputer industry, answers to commonly asked questions about microcomputers, and regular columns on business, education, and entertainment. The July 1982 issue contains an excellent overview of printers, written by editor David Gabel. Indeed, recent issues of Personal Computing have improved so much under Gabel's direction that it has become one of the leading magazines in the personal computer field.

PERSONNA NEWSLETTER

U.S.A. \$45

Box 759
Point Pleasant, NJ
U.S.A. 08742

(membership)

The monthly newsletter of the National Association of IBM Personal Computer users, an organization that offers IBM PC hardware and software at a discount. It also holds an annual convention. Send \$2 for a sample issue of the newsletter.

PHYSICIAN'S DESKTOP COMPUTER LETTER

U.S.A. \$68

Information Research
10367 Paw Paw Lake Drive
Mattawan, MI
U.S.A. 49071

Creative Computing reports that this monthly newsletter "provides the physician and his staff with up-to-date information on the applications of desktop computer hardware and software, plus tutorials and check lists for use in the clinic and general practice." The question remains: Is any newsletter worth \$68 a year?

PIPELINE

U.S.A. \$25
(membership)

Conduit
Box 388
Iowa City, IA
U.S.A. 52244

A semi-annual report of the University of Iowa's CONDUIT organization, a government-supported project designed to develop, evaluate, and market computer-assisted instructional materials for higher education. Members of CONDUIT receive Pipeline, a CAI authoring guide, and brochures on new post-secretary CAI materials, some of which are available for the Apple, PET, and TRS-80. Pipeline contains several short articles on biology, chemistry, economics, education, geography, psychology, sociology, humanities, management, mathematics, physics, political science, and statistics. Recommended.

POCKET COMPUTER NEWS

U.S.A. \$30
Canada \$36

Box 232
Seymour, CT
U.S.A. 06483

A monthly newsletter containing reviews, programming tutorials, and program listings for the Sharp, Casio, Panasonic, and Radio Shack pocket computers.

POPULAR COMPUTING (formerly ONCOMPUTING)

U.S.A. \$15
Canada \$18

70 Main Street
Peterborough, NH
U.S.A. 03458

This McGraw Hill monthly is aimed at magazine-stand browsers and new microcomputer owners. It contains easy-to-read reviews and articles on microcomputers, peripheral devices, software, and new products--all of which are lavishly illustrated with color photographs and diagrams. It is probably the best magazine for beginners.

PROGRAMMER

U.S.A. \$13

Box 3210
Manchester, NH
U.S.A. 03105

Published every two months, the Programmer is a useful collection of marketing tips and programming techniques for those who write microcomputer software.

PURSER'S MAGAZINE

Box 466
El Dorado, CA
U.S.A. 95623

Purser's Magazine used to be a computer-printed, privately published, no-holds-barred quarterly collection of product reports, business, educational, and games software reviews written by Robert Purser, one of the most knowledgeable, perceptive, and opinionated people in the microcomputer field. Purser's penetrating March 1981 evaluation of the major microcomputers was blunt: "Of these ten computers, I believe that only two are useful, practical, and popular enough for the average family. All other computers can be eliminated because of the shortcomings of the computer or the company that makes the computer." His description of the shortcomings will surprise you. In short, Purser's magazine was a one-man tour de force that every microcomputer owner should receive. Unfortunately, the overworked Purser couldn't keep it up and is planning to issue only an annual publication. Subscriptions are no longer available.

RAINBOW

U.S.A. \$12

5803 Timber Ridge Drive
Prospect, KY
U.S.A. 40059

A monthly newsletter for owners of Radio Shack's TRS-80 Color computer. It features programming tips, sample programs, and new product reviews.

ROBOTICS AGE

U.S.A. \$15

Box 423
Tujunga, CA
U.S.A. 91042

Canada \$17

The publication of Robotics Age was inevitable. This journal of intelligent machines reports the work of robot-building hobbyists, as well as the latest development in artificial intelligence and new products in the field. It is a refreshing change from the run-of-the-mill microcomputer magazines. Can magazines with names such as Creative Robotics, Robot World, and Personal Robot be far behind?

SATN

Box 815
Quincy, MA
U.S.A. 02169

U.S.A. \$30
Canada \$50

SATN (Software Arts Technical News) is a newsletter published every two months for users of Visicalc, the famous budgetting and financial forecasting program. Each issue contains tips on how to use Visicalc, as well as reports on sophisticated uses for the program. The publishers are confident that readers will find SATN worth the stiff subscription price (a full refund is promised if you are not satisfied). We have found it a useful supplement to Visicalc's manuals and a good source of curriculum materials.

SCHOOL MICROWARE DIRECTORY

Dresden Associates
Box 246
Dresden, MA
U.S.A. 04342

U.S.A. \$20
Canada \$20

A typewritten quarterly catalogue of educational software available for the major microcomputers. Entries are listed by subject and grade level ranging from kindergarten to grade 12. Unfortunately, the programs are not reviewed, and anyone purchasing educational software sight unseen can expect to be disappointed.

SCHOOL MICROWARE REVIEW

Dresden Associates
Box 246
Dresden, MA
U.S.A. 04342

U.S.A. \$30
Canada \$30

For \$30 more than the cost of their preceding School Microware Directory, Dresden Associates will send you two issues of educational software reviews solicited from subscribers. One would expect such reviews to appear in that directory, hence the publication of a separate newsletter appears to be an attempt to separate educators from their limited computer funds. I have not seen it and would welcome readers' candid opinions.

SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN

Box 5959
New York, NY
U.S.A. 10017

U.S.A. \$21

This leading scientific monthly occasionally publishes highly technical but well-illustrated articles on microelectronics that are worth searching out. Silicon-chip technology was thoroughly explained in the issues of May 1975 and September 1977. The super-conducting Josephson Junction was featured in the May 1980 issue, and disk-storage technology was described in the August 1980 issue. The new super computers were discussed in the January 1982 issue.

SMALL BUSINESS COMPUTERS

Box 789M
Morristown, NJ
U.S.A. 07960

U.S.A. \$12
Canada \$18

When they launched Small Business Computers, Creative Computing's editors claimed that their new magazine would provide "flagrantly honest evaluations" of computers and software written "without the technical jargon and double talk." "We won't just tell you what a program can do," they promised. "We'll tell you what it doesn't do, what it does poorly, and what it should do for the price. If advertisers don't like that, we don't want their business...." The first issue I received contained a couple of short, sharp book reviews and an excellent overview of computer printers, but there was nothing very critical in its software reviews and the new product reports were, as usual, merely synopses of manufacturers' promotional literature. Still, Small Business Computers is well edited and attractively designed. It is a useful resource for those using or planning to use a microcomputer in their business.

SMALL COMPUTERS IN LIBRARIES

Graduate Library School
University of Arizona
1515 East First Street
Tucson, AZ
U.S.A. 85719

U.S.A. \$20

A monthly newsletter that reportedly features articles on the use of microcomputers in libraries, as well as tutorials on computer literacy and reviews of pertinent books and software.

SOFTALK

11021 Magnolia Boulevard
North Hollywood, CA
U.S.A. 91601

U.S.A. \$24
Canada \$24

An excellent monthly publication that features chatty articles on people in the microcomputer industry, a lively readers' forum, a programming contest page that encourages submissions from Apple users of all ages, a revealing disk-jockey-style list of best-selling programs for the Apple, and a massive collection of short software reviews and reports on new products. Softalk is the most comprehensive magazine on Apple Computers. A special subscription rate of \$8 is available for schools and libraries. Highly recommended.

SOFTDISK MAGAZINE

3811 St. Vincent
Shreveport, LA
U.S.A. 71108

U.S.A. \$5
an issue
Canada \$5

A magazine for the Apple that is contained on a five-inch floppy diskette. I haven't seen it, but Apple Orchard reports that the first issue featured animated hi-res photographs and 21 subscriber-contributed programs, including seven games, three utility programs, two school programs, two business programs, three hello programs, and four "novelties." The first issue costs \$10; succeeding issues are \$5 if you send in your own diskette.

SOFTSIDE

Box 68
Milford, NH
U.S.A. 03055

U.S.A. \$24
Canada \$32

A monthly devoted largely to games software for the Apple, PET, TRS-80, and Atari microcomputers. It also has tips for advanced programmers.

SYNC

39 East Hanover Avenue
Morris Plains, NJ
U.S.A. 07950

U.S.A. \$10
Canada \$15

SYNC specializes in articles, tutorials, programming tips, and reviews for owners of the popular Sinclair ZX80 and ZX81 microcomputers. It also features listings of games programs that can be typed into the Sinclair. It is published six times a year by the publishers of Creative Computing, who claim that SYNC will "show you how to do things on the Sinclair that can't be done on other machines." They should also tell you how to type in a three-line program on the Sinclair's tiny touch-sensitive keys without making a dozen mistakes.

TALMIS NEWSLETTER

115 North Oak Park Avenue
Oak Park, IL
U.S.A. 60301

A Neilson-rating-style newsletter of educational software reviews scheduled to begin publication in August 1982.

TECHNOLOGY ILLUSTRATED

Box 2804
Boulder, CO
U.S.A. 80321

U.S.A. \$9.95
Canada \$15

A lavishly illustrated new magazine designed to explain technological developments to the layman. Like Science Digest, the magazine it imitates, Technology Illustrated covers a wide range of topics. The first issue begins with an article on the history of computers and concludes with a note on the zany wartime research of B. F. Skinner, who is described as "the best-known scientist of our time." I liked it. The photographs were ideal for my introductory lecture on the history of computing, and I still consider B. F. Skinner's Beyond Freedom and Dignity to be one of the most important books ever written, even if he did get his start trying to train pigeons to operate the controls of a guided missile. Teachers will probably find Technology Illustrated a good source of classroom ideas.

THE CATALYST

U.S.A. \$12

1259 El Camino Real
Suite 275
Mento Park, CA
U.S.A. 94025

Published six times a year, The Catalyst features articles and reports on microcomputers in special education.

THE COMPUTER GRAPHICS SOFTWARE NEWS

U.S.A. \$50

5857 S. Gessner Street
Suite 401
Houston, TX
U.S.A. 77036

Taking the prize for the most expensive newsletter is The Computer Graphics Software News. It is scheduled to appear six times a year, and it will report on computer-assisted design, animation, business graphics, image processing, and "petrophysical related software."

THE COMPUTING TEACHER

U.S.A. \$14.50

Computing Centre
Eastern Oregon State College
La Grande, OR
U.S.A. 97850

Canada \$20

Edited by David Moursund, a leading CAI educator, this journal focuses on teacher education, computer-assisted instruction, and the impact of computers on curriculums. Apart from the usual articles and software reviews, The Computing Teacher features reports on CAI projects, articles on instructional design, and an assortment of calculator and microcomputer programming assignments that can be adapted to classroom use. Teachers using a microcomputer should not be without this journal.

THE DIRTY BOOK

U.S.A. \$9.95

Bourbon Street Press
3225 Danny Park
New Orleans, LA
U.S.A. 70002

The Dirty Book is actually a quarterly review of erotic software. It offers an opportunity to play a real life adventure game: readers are urged to submit their erotic game programs in order to win an all-expenses-paid trip to New Orleans bawdy houses. At \$9.95 an issue, anything is possible.

THE HARVEST

Box 787
Palatine, IL
U.S.A.

The occasionally published newsletter of the Northern Illinois Apple Users' Group, one of the oldest and most active of the Apple clubs. Apple Magazine reports that recent issues of The Harvest included a review of Easywriter, a comparative assessment of Visifile and Desktop Plan, and information on "smart terminals" programs.

T.H.E. JOURNAL

Box 992
Acton, MD
U.S.A. 01720

U.S.A. \$15
Canada \$23

A journal published every two months subtitled Technological Horizons in Education for school administrators by Information Synergy Inc. of Acton, Maryland. It contains short reviews of new equipment and erudite articles on the theoretical and practical applications of technological advances in education at all levels. Complimentary subscriptions are available to senior administrators. I recommend it for educational planners and graduate students in education.

THE MIDNIGHT GAZETTE

635 Maple Street
Mt. Zion, IL
U.S.A. 62549

A quarterly newsletter published by the Central Illinois PET Users' Group, which subsists on donations from people who use Commodore microcomputers.

THE PAPER

Pearl Street
Livingston Manor, NY
U.S.A.

U.S.A. \$20
Canada \$25

A newsletter devoted to Commodore PET, VIC-20, and CBM machines.

THE SCARLETT LETTER

1301 North 19th Street
Norfolk, NE
U.S.A. 68701

U.S.A. \$12

The monthly newsletter of the Big Red Apple Club, an organization for Apple owners who are unable to participate in local user groups. The club maintains a free software library and the newsletter contains program listings, utility programs, technical notes, and articles on the educational uses of the Apple.

THE TRANSACTOR

Commodore Business Machines
3370 Pharmacy Avenue
Agincourt, Ontario
Canada M1W 2K4

Commodore's Canadian magazine. It is published six times a year for owners of Commodore's PET, VIC-20, and CBM microcomputers. I would welcome subscribers' evaluations.

TI LOGO SOURCE

Free

Microcomputers Corporation
Box 191
Rye, NY
U.S.A. 10580

A newsletter for those who use the new children's computer programming language LOGO on Texas Instruments' turtle-selling TI-99/4A microcomputer. It is published every two months by the Microcomputers Corporation, a company that evidently supplies educational software for the TI-99/4A. A free software catalogue is also available upon request.

TORPET

\$1 an issue

381 Lawrence Avenue West
Toronto, Ontario
Canada M5M 1B9

The quarterly newsletter of the Toronto PET Users' Group, one of the most active PET interest groups.

TURTLE NEWS

U.S.A. \$25

1208 Hillside Drive
Richardson, TX
U.S.A. 75081

Canada \$40

Turtle News is the monthly newsletter of the Young People's LOGO Association, an organization created by teenaged microcomputer enthusiast Jim Muller to promote the versatile LOGO language. Anyone 18 or under can join the YPLA free of charge. Adults are expected to pay the full membership fee. Turtle News features news on LOGO products as well as LOGO program listings. It merits the support of the over-18, over-trained, over-the-hill computer community.

VIDEODISC/VIDEOTEX

U.S.A. \$52

Microform Review Inc.
520 Riverside Ave., Dept. 31
Westport, CT
U.S.A. 06890

Canada \$57

A new magazine for videodisc and videotex users. It features reports on projects under way in Canada and the United States, as well as reviews of equipment and software in these rapidly expanding fields.

VIDEOTEX CANADA

U.S.A. \$30

Box 8000
Station A
Toronto, Ontario
Canada M5W 9Z9

Canada \$25

The Government of Canada has spent millions of dollars developing a very sophisticated videotex service known as Telidon. (Videotex systems bring to your television screen an incredible variety of expensive, though largely useless, information held in computer data banks around the continent.) Promoting large-scale communications enterprises like this appears to be a national weakness: Witness the vast sums of public money squandered on the Canadian National Railroad, the Canadian Broadcasting System, and

Air Canada, apart from dozens of crown corporations and other government-subsidized fauna that dot the Canadian landscape.

In theory, government support is temporary and these enterprises are expected to become independent and operate at a profit. But this never happens, and Telidon is not likely to prove to be the exception because videotex systems are far too expensive for the average homeowner. This pessimistic view has even crept into Videntex Canada, a new monthly magazine designed to promote Telidon. "Where do we go from here?" asks government functionary Pierre Juneau in the lead article in the premier issue.

Given the massive memory storage promised by recent advances in microcomputer disk memory storage, it may be too late to save this modern dinosaur from perpetual public subsidies. But one strategy they might undertake is to offer a \$50 microcomputer interface to the system. After all, tens of thousands of microcomputer enthusiasts are collectively prepared to pay vast sums of money to subscribe to less sophisticated United States networks like The Source.

The Canadian Department of Communications could also grant at least moderate subsidies to the continuing education departments of colleges and universities to develop courses on the use of the system. In fact, I can think of a dozen ways to spend promotional money. Don't hesitate to call me, Pierre.

Each quarterly issue of Videotex Canada provides an updated directory of the computer page numbers of the information supplied by Telidon subscribers.

VISIGROUP NEWSLETTER

U.S.A. \$25

Box 254
Scarsdale, NY
U.S.A. 10583

The monthly newsletter of VisiGroup, an organization that describes itself as "the national in-the-mail Electronic Spreadsheet Users Group." The ads claim that major spreadsheets are covered at both beginner and advanced levels. Visicalc and Supercalc aficionados may wish to send \$2.50 for a sample issue.

VOICENEWS

U.S.A. \$25

Stoneridge Technical Services
Box 1891
Rockville, MD
U.S.A. 20850

A newsletter devoted to speech synthesis and speech-recognition technology. It features reports on new speech products as well as information on conferences, exhibitions, courses, and other events in the voice-technology field.

WAR MACHINE

\$3 an issue

17 Langbank Avenue
Rise Park
Nottingham, NG5 5BU
GREAT BRITAIN

Published every two months for computer war game buffs, this British magazine features game reviews and advice for independent software writers.

WASHINGTON APPLE PI

Box 34511
Bethesda, MD
U.S.A. 20817

The monthly newsletter of the large Apple users' group in the Washington, D.C., area. A collection of their best articles for 1980-1981 is available at \$7.50.

WORD PROCESSING NEWS

U.S.A. \$20

1765 N. Highland Avenue
#306-IW
Hollywood, CA
U.S.A. 90028

Word Processing News is aimed at those who use word processing equipment or microcomputers equipped with word processing software. It reportedly contains equipment reviews, user interviews, and an "idea exchange." A sample issue is available for \$2.

80-U.S. JOURNAL

U.S.A. \$16

3838 South Warner Street.
Tacoma, WA
U.S.A. 98409

Canada \$25

A monthly magazine for owners of Tandy Corporation's TRS-80 line of microcomputers. It includes program listings, news, new product announcements, and reviews of TRS-80 hardware and software.